

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
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P R 011457Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9290

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0972

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, XK, US, NU

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: INFORMATION ON NICARAGUAN MULTILATERAL
POLICIES

REF: STATE 037591

1. (A) NICARAGUA HAS NO CLEARLY DEFINED MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN 1976. THE PRINCIPAL CONCEPTS IN FORMING ITS POSITIONS ON KEY QUESTIONS ARE UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR WEST ON EAST-WEST ISSUES, PRESERVATION OF ISRAEL, AND OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVES WHICH WOULD RESTRICT ITS ECONOMIC FREEDOM OF ACTION.

2. (B) NICARAGUA'S PRINCIPAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATION IS MAINTAINING THE GOOD OPINION OF THE U.S. IT IS THEREFORE HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO PERSUASION BY U.S. AS WITNESSED BY ITS RECORD AS THE STRONGEST SUPPORTER OF U.S.. BACKED POSITIONS AMONG LATIN AMERICANS DURING THE 30TH UNGA. ALTHOUGH BACKING THE U.S. THE VAST MAJORITY OF TIMES ON ISSUES OF PRIMARY CONCERN TO US, IT IS ALSO SENSITIVE ABOUT ITS ISOLATION AMONG A) THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, B) THE OTHER LATIN AMERICANS, AND C) THE
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OTHER LDC' , IN THAT ORDER OF PRIORITY. NICARAGUA IS THUS LOATH

TO VOTE AGAINST LA CONSENSUS AND WITH U.S. ON CERTAIN OAS ISSUES EVEN WHEN IT SYMPATHIZES WITH OUR POSITION. ON OTHER HAND, ONCE IT PROMISES ITS SUPPORT TO US AS IN CASE OF UNGA DECOLONIZATION RESOLUTIONS, ONLY OVERWHELMING PRESSURES FOR CONFORMITY WILL FORCE IT TO RENEGE. NICARAGUA PLAYS AN IMPORTANT, ALBEIT USUALLY CASUAL ROLE AMONG CENTRAL AMERICAN ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. UNLESS ENERGIZED BY STRONG U.S. APPROACH TO LOBBY AS IN THE CASE OF KOREAN RESOLUTION, OR PERCEIVES OVERWHELMING CORRECTNESS OF OUR POSITION WHICH IS SIMULTANEOUSLY MISUNDERSTOOD BY OTHER CA'S AS IN CASE OF SOMOZA LOBBYING FOR FAVORABLE LANGUAGE ON U.S. TRADE ACT AT CA SUMMIT MEETING YEAR AGO, NICARAGUA WILL USUALLY NOT TAKE INITIATIVE. PARENTHETICALLY, IT HAS INCREASINGLY SEEMED TO EMBASSY THAT U.S. COULD DO MORE IN LOBBYING ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES AT JOINING CA PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL. DEMARCHES WHICH ARE TIMELY WITH COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION--ELEMENTS THAT WE FIND ARE OFTEN MISSING---JOINTLY, OR SIMULTANEOUSLY PITCHED TO CA CHIEFS OF STATE ESPECIALLY BEFORE THEIR FREQUENT MEETINGS COULD BEAR FRUIT IN FORM OF BLOC VOTES IN OUR BEHALF.

3. (C) GON DOES NOT USUALLY FULLY INSTRUCT ITS DELS AT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. WHERE THEY HAVE NOTHING SPECIAL AT STAKE, THEY ACT ACCORDING TO GENERAL PRINCIPLES, OR LOOK TO U.S. DELEGATION FOR LEADERSHIP (AND ARE SOMETIMES FRUSTRATED WHEN THE U.S. DOES NOT GIVE IT). PRESIDENT CAN MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THEM WHILE MEETINGS ARE IN PROGRESS, THE USUAL DEVICE BEING APHONE CALL GIVING SIMPLE, EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS. WE DOUBT THAT DELS' REPORTING IS VERY TIMELY, BUT THIS IS MINOR POINT, SINCE IF DEL IS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS IT WILL VOTE ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES STATED IN PARAS A & B.

4. (D) NICARAGUAN AMBASSADORS TO U.S. (ACCREDITED TO UN AND OAS) AND TO FRANCE ENJOY SOME DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE. HAPPILY, BOTH ARE GOOD FRIENDS OF U.S. AND WE HAVE RARELY, IF EVER, HAD TO REMONSTRATE WITH GON FOR BEHAVIOR OF THIERS WHICH WAS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR BILATERAL UNDERSTANDINGS. ALL THE REST ARE VULNERABLE TO PRESIDNETIAL WHIM.

5. (E) GON IS EXCEPTIONALLY RECEPTIVE TO U.S. REPRESENTATIONS. ALTHOUGH OUR POINTS OF VIEW NORMALLY COINCIDE, AT TIMES WHEN THERE HAS BEEN LESS THAN PERFECT UNDERSTANDING AND WHEN NICARAGUA

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HAS VOTED WITH US, IT HAS BEEN FROM AWARENESS OF THE VALUE ITS VOTE MAY HAVE IN STRENGTHENING BILATRAL RELATIONS. NICARAGUA, AS A NONACTIVIST, DOES NO MAKE A PRACTICE OF SOLICITING OUR SUPPORT FOR ITS OWN POSITIONS, EXCEPT TO OCCASIONALLY DISPLAY PIQUE THAT WE ARE NOT HARDNOSED ENOUGH ON CERTAIN EAST-WEST ISSUES.

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